

# What is Public Art?

While there are many definitions of public art, the following elements are most frequently mentioned:

- Art that is commissioned or acquired for the purpose of enhancing a public space or location in the community, and engaging people as part of their daily experience.
- Art that represents a creative response to a particular place or location in a community, designed to allow the person to see or experience the location in a special way.
- Art that is created in commemoration of a person, place or special event in the community.

## The Artistic Process

When beginning to think about creating a work of public art, the artist has to make a number of decisions about the project.

These are some of the steps in the Artistic Process:

### Medium

What material will the artist use to create the work?

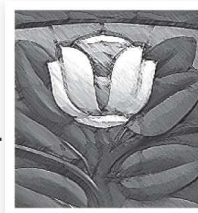
Stone, Metal, Wood, Glass, Fiber, Plaster, Clay, Earth, Pigment (paint) and other materials can be used to create the specific effect or statement the artist desires. Will the work be indoors or outdoors and how will its location affect the condition of the work over time.



### Design

What will the art look like? Will it be realistic or abstract?

How does the design relate to the community or the sense of occasion for which the work is being created? Does the design reflect a particular style of art, such as modern, art deco, or pop art? Does the community understand and relate to the proposed design?



### Location

Where will the work of art be located and how will it affect the people, traffic and buildings that surround it. Why is it important that the work be placed in the particular location the artist has selected?



### Scale

What are the dimensions of the work? Will it be monumental (larger than life), life-sized, or miniature? How will a person relate to the size of the work? How does the size of the work relate to what surrounds it?

